

Bass River Fire Brigade News

By Peter Christensen

Happy Easter to all.
Well the month has gone by very quickly and I guess it is time to tell you how it went at the hall. Our annual Brunch with Pancake and Maple syrup was a great day. With the help of all those men and women from the fire hall and the children of fire brigade members, everything from the setup to cleanup went with out a hitch, smooth sailing, with the wind at our backs, well, you get my drift. The cooks were all on fire, not really, but they all did an excellent job. The food was great and the maple syrup was SWEET. A big thank you to the folks who helped out and donated the maple syrup. The brigade and the people at the brunch say THANK YOU.
A very special thank you to Carl, Bill and Mike, the Elliott's, who take time out of crazy busy schedules to give back to the community, by performing at our brunches and many brunches and suppers along the shore. Thank you for your time and music. Good food, great music, good friends are always an excellent combo.
We are still looking for a date for our next dance, but I am sure we will have a dance this spring for sure. A great

time for a dance is the spring-time, no snow, no cold and spring will be in the air. Yee Haww.
Training is ongoing at the hall every Monday evening. Our training officer Blaine Dickie is forever giving us new surprises, putting us in different situations, putting us in new teams, trying out different trucks, and apparatus, training us for the situation that is given us once the call comes in. Thanks Blaine for your efforts.
As the winds of spring continue to flow across the fields and forests, I would like to remind the folks out there to be safe with fire materials. The old ash pile where you threw those hot ashes this winter now has no snow under it or around it. So when you throw them out now put them in a steel bucket, that way if the winds come up it will heat those coals up. They will not get a fire started in a steel container.
We must remember it is grass fire season, and now is a great time to check your flues and pipes. Not to hot, not to cold a good time to get them ready for next fall.
Well that is about all from the hall. Have a great spring and see you at the spring dance. Keep your ears open.

Bass River Notes

By Joyce Starratt

Hi. Everyone, it looks as if the snow is finally gone. Still some piles here and there where the plow had to pile it up. I have crocus and snowdrops in bloom and the other bulbs are growing, daffidols have buds. I've worked a bit in the flower beds, when it's not raining. I don't like cold damp days.
Martha Brown and Betty Fulton spent a week in March in El Paso, Texas, visiting June and Vincent Margiewicz. While there they toured various points of interest, including Los Vegas, Grand Canyon, Hoover dam and Death Valley.
Of interest to those who knew her, Jane Lighthouse Peters, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, passed away April 1, 2011. Margie Taggart is hoe after having the operation for MS. She is doing very well.
Barb Hood of Three Mile Plains spent a few days recently visiting Brian, Linda and family. The Bass River district fired Brigade held a very successful pancake brunch on April 3rd. Delicious and no dishes to wash.
There were suppers in Five Islands and Economy this month. Both delicious. There

are many good cooks down this way.
The Elliott's played at the brunch in Bass River. Lovely music as usual. Thanks boys. They also played at the brunch in Economy, last Sunday. It always adds to the enjoyment of the lunch. The Fish and Spuds booth is open for the season. Joyce Grue had a trip to Yellowknife. She left on March 23 and returned April 1. In Yellowknife she visited with her granddaughter Amanda, Matthew, Karen and her daughter, Raine. She went on a dogsled ride, had a tour in a helicopter, rode on the ice road and toured the area. After 4 days in Yellowknife, Amanda, Matthew and Joyce flew to Calgary. White there they went up in the Calgary Tower and went to a Flames hockey game. Megan went with them to the game. They also went to the zoo, drove to Banff and went up in the gondola at Sulphur Mountain. While in Calgary, they visited with Megan every evening. She had a great time. Way to go Joyce.
Eva Smith, Hazel Taggart and I went to the Chowder luncheon in Debert last Wednesday. It was delicious. So long, that's all for now.

JIM BURROWS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

SLJ: In the last federal election only 59% of eligible voters voted. Many claim, voters have become cynical, because they do not believe their elected representatives are serving their needs and act unprofessional in the House of Commons during question period.

At all levels of government, there are perceptions of wrong doing; investigations, and criminal charges have been laid. Voters are upset and have not voted because they perceive petty games are being played; politicians not addressing the issues which voters consider most important. Voters are demanding things be "CLEANED UP".
In consideration of the foregoing, please provide only a YES or NO answer.

Will you be visibly vocal advocating all elected representatives, regardless of party lines, be professional and put forth the wishes of constituents? YES
Are you willing to put constituent's needs / wishes ahead of the party line and vote accordingly with the exception of a 'Non-Confidence' or "Budget" vote? YES
If you do not demonstrate you have accomplished the two previous activities in the first year, would you resign as their representative? NO
In what way will your representation and actions help reduce the cynical attitude of voters?
When I speak representing you in parliament and when I speak to you I will use real words with real meaning not the political speak the Ottawa handlers demand. When I don't know the answer I will say so, and not change the topic. The Liberal Party has committed to making changes to question period and giving individuals an opportunity to question the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers on a regular basis.

What do you consider to be the most important issue facing residents of this constituency?
Youth Unemployment. This riding has the highest unemployment on Mainland N.S. and among the highest in Canada. If we cannot find meaningful employment for our young adults they will continue to leave, and along with them our future. Many parts of this riding are populated mainly by seniors and they know the challenges of keeping vibrant communities without a good cross section of people of all ages.
What can you accomplish to help the working poor with regard to rising food prices, higher energy and gasoline prices?
The key to the Liberal platform is shifting government investment from corporations to individuals. A Liberal government will invest in a renewed, national Affordable Housing Framework, work with all partners on a Poverty Reduction Plan for Canada and will implement a permanent \$13,500 Green Renovation Tax Credit.

What will you do to be a catalyst to increase the volumes of locally produced food products sold in nationally owned supermarkets and big box stores? How will you achieve this?
While access to markets is a major problem for Atlantic Agriculture, the solution needs to be much broader. The Liberal Party has for some time promoted the need for a National Food Strategy, a strategy that is truly developed from the bottom up, then the key to Atlantic Canada is to be able to have regional implementation. To be successful selling food in the national stores we need to be able to provide what consumers want, at competitive prices, in volumes that are necessary for the market we target. We need to recognize we cannot do this with all food we produce. Some will need to go through other supply chains, and with that in mind the Liberal Platform calls for a government investment over 4 years of \$80 million dollars in a buy local fund.
Even though healthcare is a provincial responsibility what will you do to assist to deliver healthcare quicker and more economically without a substantial increase in cost?
While the Harper Conservatives have been unclear and have said much that casts doubt on their commitment to health care, a Liberal government has been and always will be committed to universal health care. Our platform focuses on the need to bring the out of control deficit back into balance so we have the ability to adequately fund health care. This issue goes beyond money; if we are going to solve the core problems of health care we need a Prime Minister who will work with the premiers, to find ways to create efficiencies. The fact that Stephen Harper only met once with the Premiers over the past 5 years is unacceptable.

Prevention is preferred to spending money to correct a problem. The same holds true in healthcare. What will your party do to encourage a healthier lifestyle to prevent health problems rather than waiting to make sick people well?
Canada's first National Food Policy will put more healthy Canadian food on Canadian plates and fund \$40 million over four years to implement a new Healthy Start program to help 250,000 children from low-income families. A new Health Promotion Strategy will encourage better exercise and nutrition. A new Canadian Brain Health Strategy will accelerate research on Alzheimer's Disease and dementia and help patients and their families cope.
How will you use your expertise to assist the province establish programs to ensure a higher rate of youth finish high school and continue with secondary education?
A large part of the finishing school issue revolves around lack of perceived opportunity and access to post-secondary education, and meaningful employment opportunities. The Liberal Platform provides a Learning Passport that will provide \$1,000 a year over four years for every high school student to use for college or university, and for students of low-income families the amount will be \$1,500. There will be and Early Childhood Learning and Care Fund, and Aboriginal learning program, Language training for new Canadians, and a new Veterans' Learning Benefit.
When the economy tanks, many people are displaced when companies down-size or close. What results can you deliver to provide programs so displaced workers can be re-trained and re-enter the workforce quickly?
The reality is the economy in this constituency has never recovered. Our unemployment is the highest in mainland Nova Scotia and among the highest in Canada. Specifically to the question the Liberal Platform will work with labour unions, employers and other governments to expand apprenticeships and other skills training opportunities for Canadian workers. In adult literacy, where provincial governments and local agencies are best placed to act, a Liberal government will offer support as part of the Canadian Learning Strategy.
Unless Canada takes action, we will increasingly become a country that has "jobs without people and people without jobs" – a significant number of workers who are un- or underemployed, alongside hundreds of thousands of jobs that can't be filled because too few Canadians have the skills and education required.
Many voters suggest HST should not apply to electricity and furnace fuel for residential purposes, for low income families. How do you plan to address these matters?
While it would be nice to write a check to assist with energy costs, the reality is we need long-term strategies to reduce our use of traditional energy. The one that will provide direct help is the Green Renovation Tax Credit. A permanent \$13,500 Green Renovation Tax Credit for home improvements that bring environmental benefits such as energy-efficient windows, doors and roofing, and heating systems. Unlike the previous Harper tax credits this one will be structured so those who are not paying federal income tax will receive a refund. We also propose a shift of government dollars from a generous tax break to the oil sands to investments in renewable energy.
Why should voters support you in this election?
Over the past few years we have had a dysfunctional parliament, one where the opportunity for input from your local MP has been lost to the Prime Minister's Office. You need someone who can work within the flawed party system to stand up for reinstating the democratic process within government. My experience and background shows that I work to find like-minded people within an organization to affect change. You need an MP who has that background and determination to stand up for what is needed for you as residents of this constituency and as Canadians who deserve a better government.



Jim Burrows



Onslow-Automotive

12876 Hwy # 2,
Lower Onslow, NS
B6L 5E8
Tel: (902) 893-1529
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